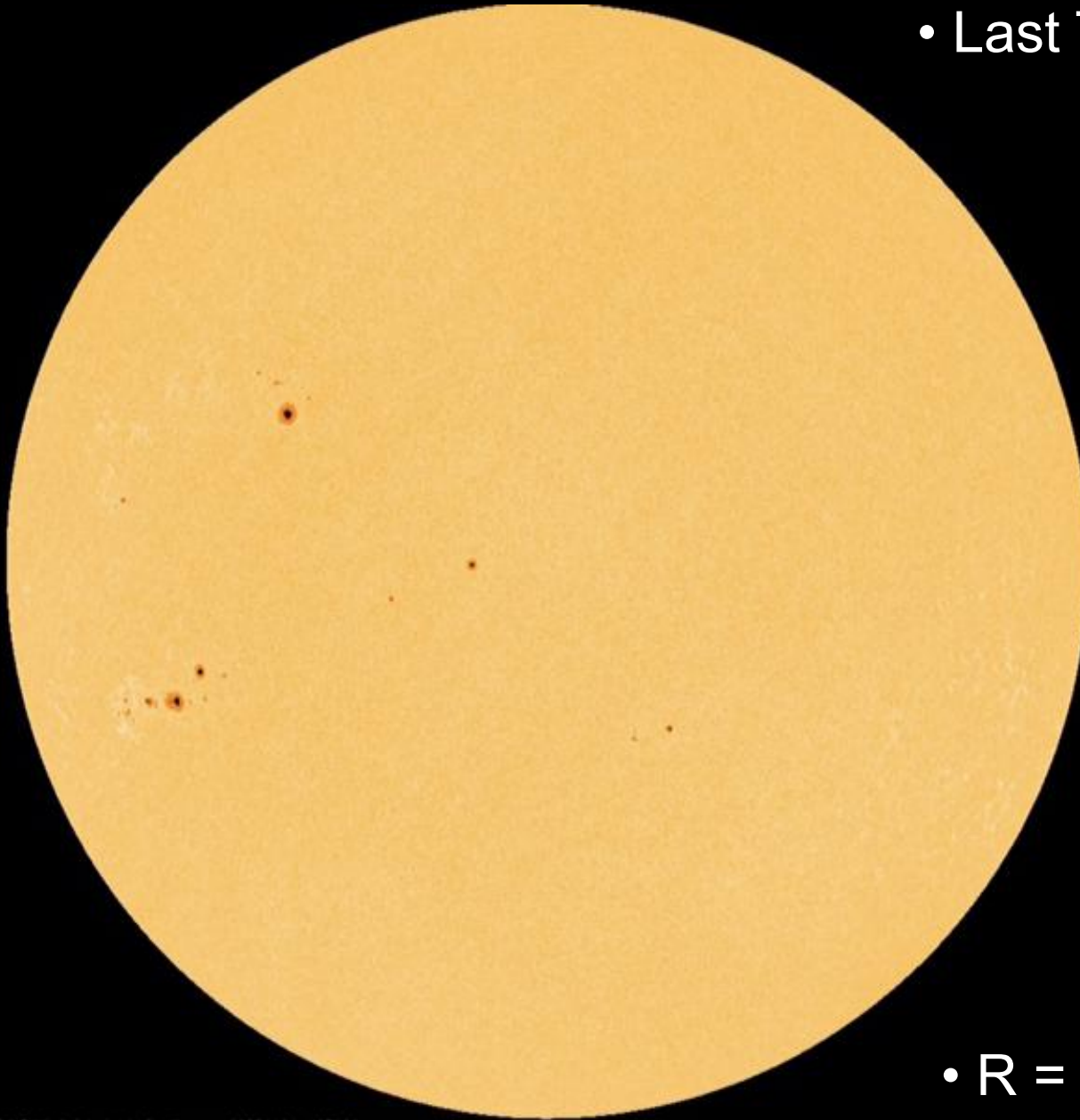


What's Up?

2024 December 22 to 2026 January 26

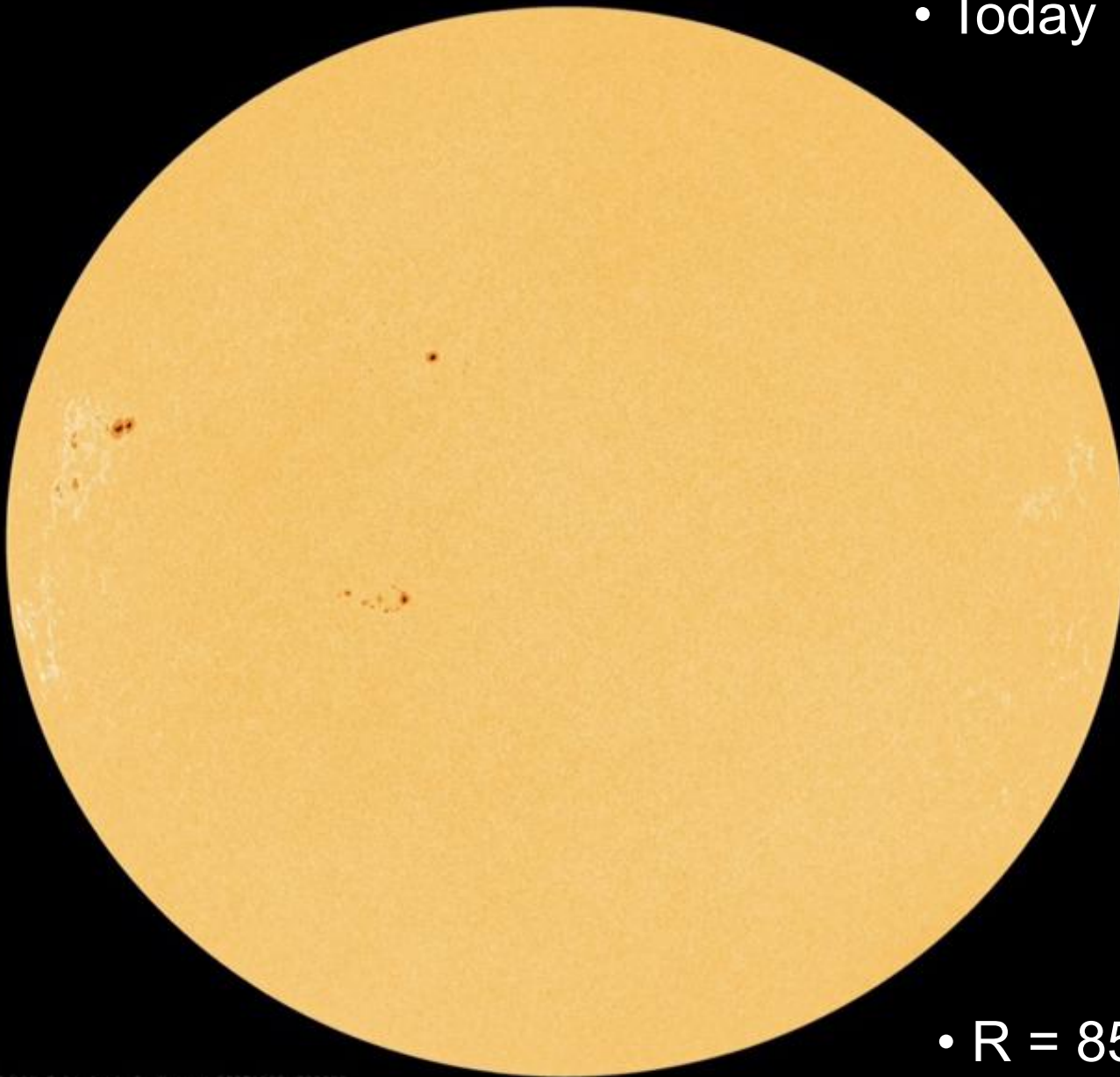
Bill Barton, FRAS

• Last Time



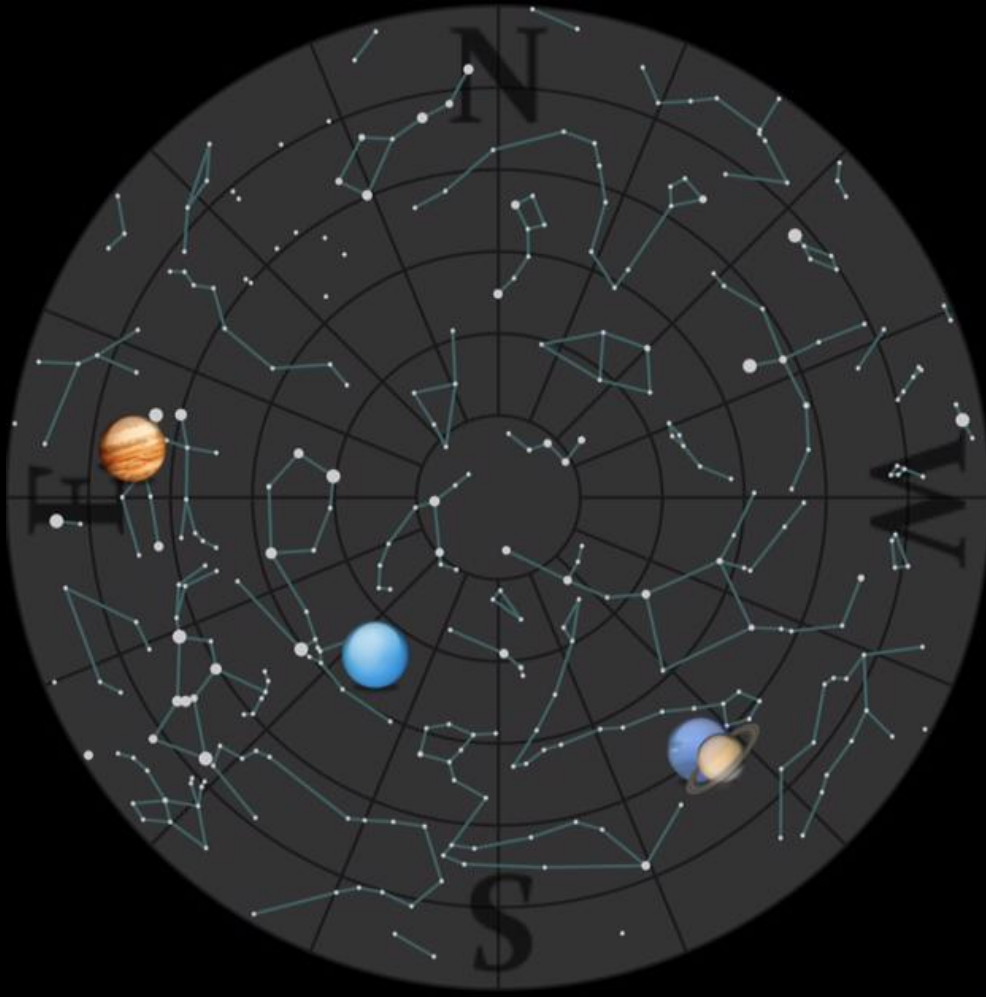
• $R = 79$

- Today

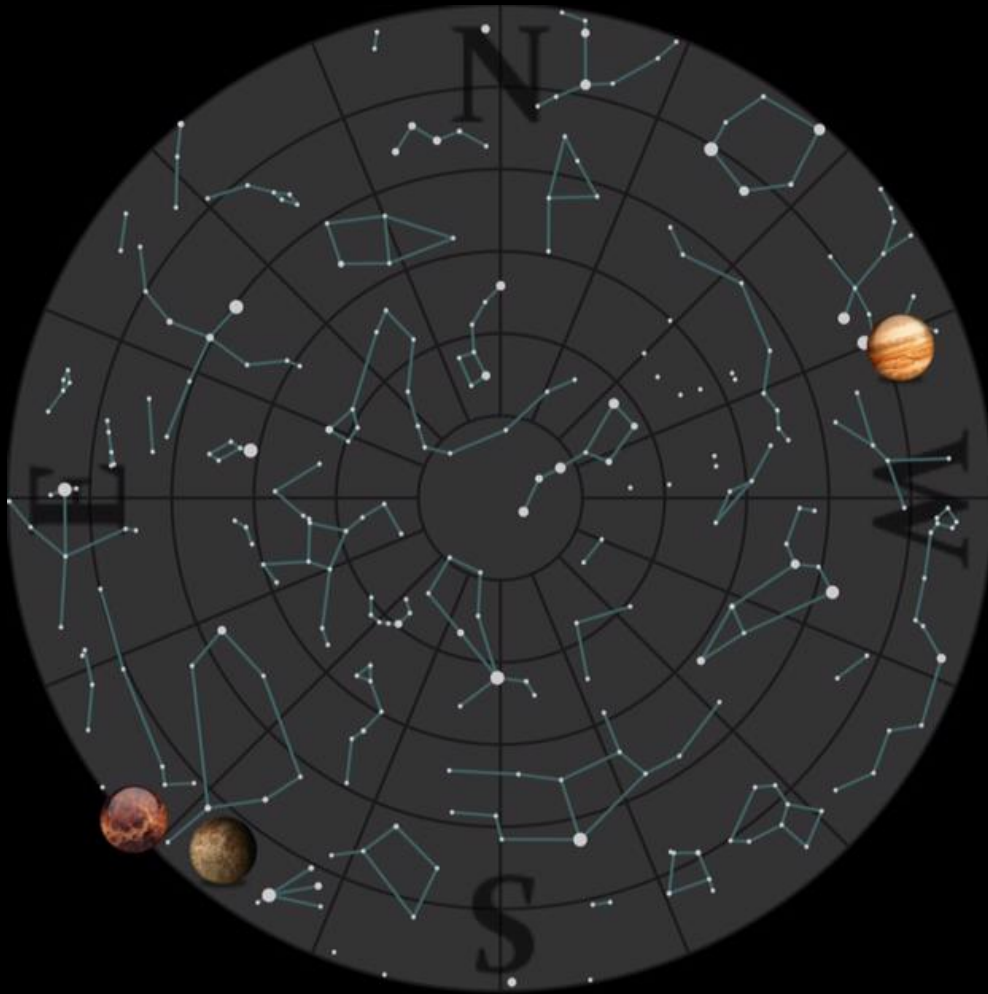


- $R = 85$

- The Sky 20:00
Tonight







- The Sky 08:00
Tomorrow



Inner Solar System

- Sun
 - Declination increasing, perihelion January 03
 - Last sunspot max., 2024 October, next min., 2030?
- Mercury
 - In the morning sky, greatest elongation, December 08 (21°), currently 16° , superior conjunction January 21
 - Today, rise 06:40, transit 10:35, set 14:40
- Venus
 - In the morning sky, superior conjunction January 06, elongation currently 04°
 - Then in the evening sky, greatest elongation August 14 (46°)
 - today, rise 07:45, transit 11:30, set 15:20

Earth

- Time
 - 00:00UT \approx 07:00ST today
 - Today, sunrise 08:00, transit 11:50, sunset 15:45
 - End of period, sunrise 07:40, transit 12:05, sunset 16:30
- Moon
 -  First Quarter, December 27
 -  Full, January 03 ('Wolf or Old' Moon)
 -  Last Quarter, 10
 -  New, 18
- Meteors
 - Quadrantids, December 28-January 12, peak Jan 03, ZHR 80+

Outer Solar System

- Mars
 - Conjunction January 09. Today, rise 08:25, transit 12:10, set 15:55
- Jupiter
 - Opposition January 10. Today, rise 17:20, transit 01:20, set 09:30
- Saturn
 - Opposition September 21. Conjunction February 20. Today, rise 11:50, transit 17:30, set 23:15
- Uranus
 - Opposition November 21. Conjunction May 22. Today, rise 13:30, transit 21:30, set 05:20
- Neptune
 - Opposition September 23. Conjunction February 20. Today, rise 11:50, transit 17:40, set 23:40

OASI Events

- Only routine meetings this period

Local Societies Events

- DASH (Darsham Village Hall, 7:00pm, Sundays)
 - January 11, observing meeting
 - January 25, 'The Discovery of the First Black Hole', Dave Green
- SAS (Cavendish Memorial Hall, 7:30pm, Tuesdays)
 - January 06, observing meeting
- AAA (Whepstead Village Hall, 7:30pm, Wednesdays)
 - January 07, 'Equipment Evening'
 - January 21, 'Supernovae, the Death of Massive Stars', Stephen Recaldin
- DAG (Diss)
 - Informal on FaceBook & WhatsApp

National Events I

- British Astronomical Association
 - Institute of Physics, London, N1 9BU
 - Saturday January 24, 14:30-18:00, livestream
 - 'Solar Differential Rotation', Peter Meadows
 - 'A Beginners Guide to Electronically Assisted Astronomy', Bobby Manoo
 - Sky Notes, Mike Frost
- Society for Popular Astronomy
 - UCL, Gower St, London, WC1E 6BT
 - Saturday January 31, 14:00-17:00
 - 'The First Decade of Gravitational Wave Astronomy', Dr Laura Nuttall
 - Sky Notes, Robin Scagell

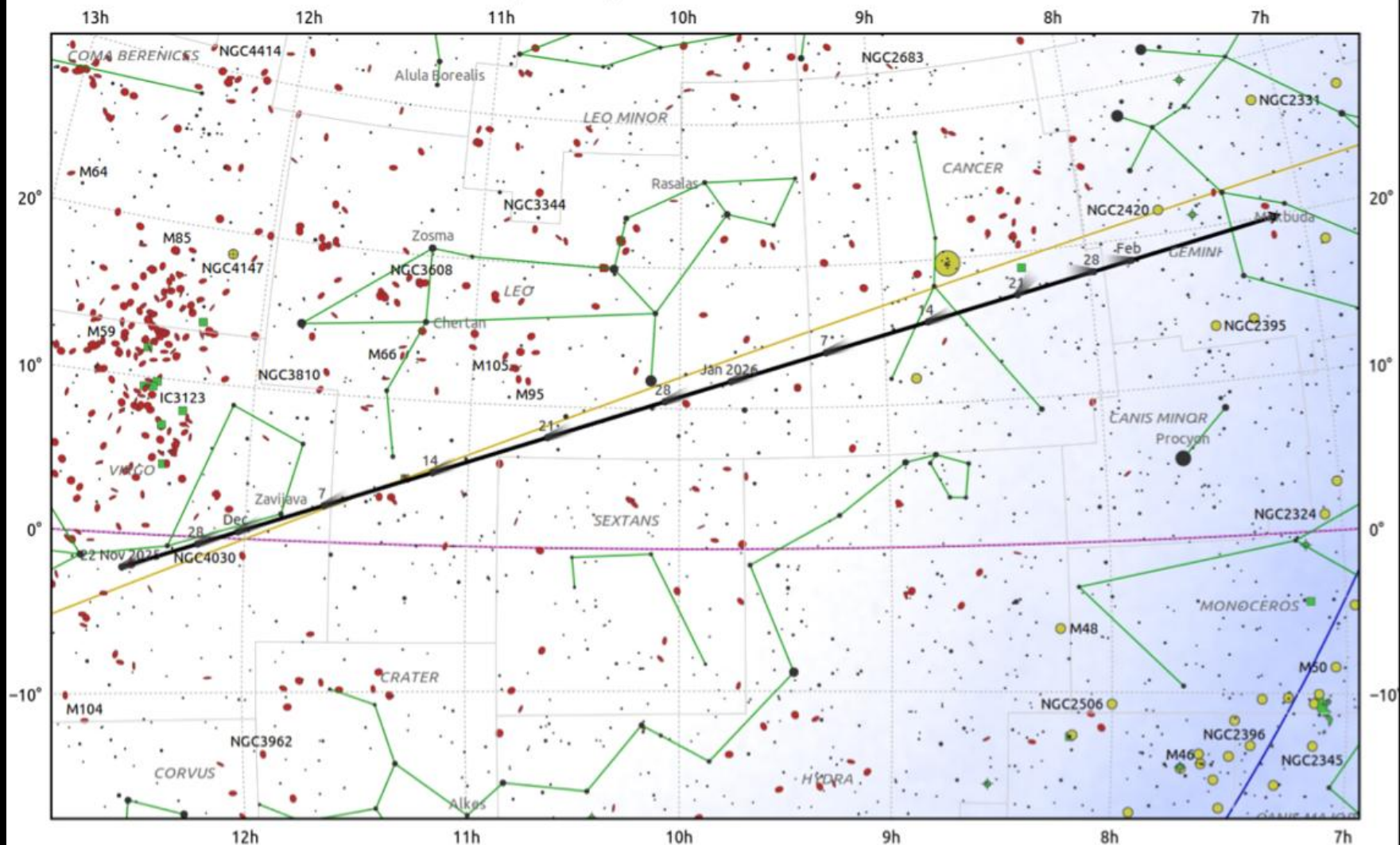
National Events II

- European Astrofest
 - Kensington Town Hall, London, W8 7NX
 - Friday/Saturday February 06/07
- Practical Astronomy Show
 - NEAC, Stoneleigh Park, CV8 2LH
 - Saturday March 07

Interstellar Comet

- 3I/ATLAS
 - C/2025 N1 (ATLAS)
 - Discovered, 1 July 2025, 4.5AU, +18 mag
 - Size, 0.2 to 3½ miles diameter
- Perihelion, 29 October 2025, 1.4AU
- Perigee, 19 December 2025, 1.8AU
- Previous objects
 - 1I ('Oumuamua), 2017, &
 - 2I (Borisov), 2019

The path of 3I/ATLAS from 2025 November 22



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Magnitude scale: 7.0 6.0 5.0 4.0 3.0 2.0 1.0 0.0

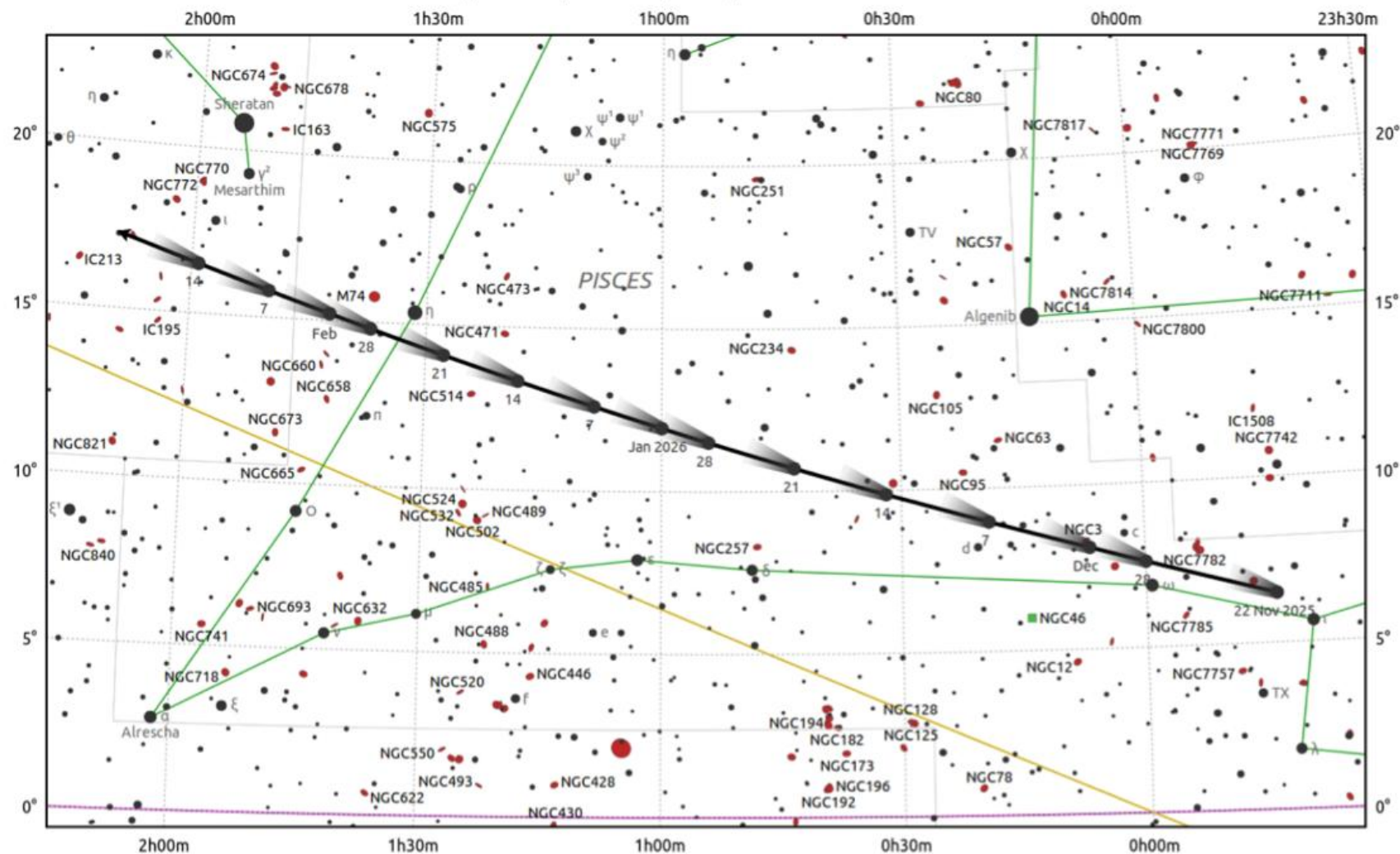
- The Equator — Ecliptic Plane — Galactic Plane
- Galaxy ■ Bright nebula ● Open cluster ● Globular cluster ◆ Planetary nebula

Date	Mag
2025 Dec 1	15.8
2025 Dec 14	16.4
2025 Dec 15	16.4
2026 Jan 1	17.4
2026 Jan 15	18.4
2026 Jan 16	18.4
2026 Jan 31	19.5
2026 Feb 1	19.6
2026 Feb 15	20.5

Solar System Comet

- C/2025 R2 (SWAN)
 - Discovered, 11 September
 - Perihelion, 12 September, 0.5AU
 - Perigee, 20 October, 0.26 AU

The path of C/2025 R2 (SWAN) from 2025 November 22



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Magnitude scale: • 8.0 • 7.0 • 6.0 • 5.0 • 4.0 • 3.0 • 2.0

- The Equator
- Ecliptic Plane
- Galactic Plane
- Galaxy
- Bright nebula
- Open cluster
- Globular cluster
- Planetary nebula

Date	Mag
2025 Dec 1	11.0
2025 Dec 5	11.3
2025 Dec 15	11.9
2025 Dec 22	12.4
2026 Jan 1	12.9
2026 Jan 11	13.4
2026 Jan 15	13.5
2026 Feb 1	14.2
2026 Feb 6	14.4
2026 Feb 15	14.7

2026 Highlight

- Solar eclipse
 - Wednesday August 12
 - Sunset 20:25 BST
- early access to Orwell Park?



Max View in Ipswich, [England](#)

Global Event:	Total Solar Eclipse
Local Type:	Partial Solar Eclipse in Ipswich,
Begins:	Wed, 12 Aug 2026, 18:16
Maximum:	Wed, 12 Aug 2026, 19:12 0.917 Magnitude
Ends:	Wed, 12 Aug 2026, 20:05
Duration:	1 hour, 49 minutes

All times shown on this page are local time.